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Agenda item 5 (f)

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Enrique Tejera-París (Venezuela), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1995/L.44

Social development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, 1/ in particular commitment 10, and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, 2/ in particular chapter V on implementation and follow-up, in which, inter alia, the Economic and Social Council was invited to review, at its substantive session of 1995, the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission for Social Development, including consideration of the strengthening of the Commission, taking into account the need for synergy with other related commissions and conference follow-up,

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1/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

2/ Ibid., annex II.

Taking note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-fourth session, 3/ at which the World Summit for Social Development was the priority subject,

Taking into account Commission resolutions 34/4 and 34/5 of 20 April 1995, including the annexes thereto, concerning the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, in particular the recommendation that the Commission should have a central role in the follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, 4/

Reaffirming that the Economic and Social Council should oversee system-wide coordination in the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and make recommendations in this regard,

Reiterating that the Commission for Social Development will assist the Council in the intergovernmental review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action so as to ensure an integrated approach to social development,

Bearing in mind the coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and the overall responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Considering that all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should be involved in the follow-up to the Summit, in accordance with their mandates,

1. Takes note of the note by the Secretariat; 5/

2. Decides that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system, should review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of other relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and that, to this end, the Commission should:

(a) Improve international understanding of social development, including through exchanges of information and experiences, and through discussions on emerging issues;

(b) Make recommendations regarding social development to the Economic and Social Council;

3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 4 (E/1995/24).

4/ Ibid., chap. I, sect. E.

5/ E/1995/102.

(c) Elaborate practical measures aimed at furthering the recommendation of the World Summit for Social Development;

3. Decides also that the Commission for Social Development should:

(a) Adapt its mandate so as to ensure an integrated approach to social development, taking into account the relationship between social and economic development as defined in the recommendations of the World Summit for Social Development; it should, inter alia, contribute to the identification of practical measures;

(b) Develop a multi-year programme of work to the year 2000, selecting specific themes and addressing them from an interrelated and integrated perspective;

(c) Establish the practice of opening its debates to experts and the main actors of civil society so as to enhance the exchange of information and experience, knowledge and understanding of social development;

(d) Review and update its methods of work;

(e) Review the reporting practices to and by the Commission in order to enhance the multi-year programme of work;

4. Decides that the Commission for Social Development should hold a special session in 1996 in order, inter alia:

(a) To review its mandate, terms of reference and scope of work;

(b) To elaborate its multi-year programme of work;

(c) To review the frequency of its meetings in the light of the above and make recommendations thereon to the Council;

5. Also decides, in the light of those recommendations and on the basis of the scope of work of the Commission, to consider in 1996 the composition of the membership of the Commission and the frequency of its sessions;

6. Further decides that the substantive theme to be considered during the special session of the Commission in 1996 should be determined at the resumed substantive session of 1995 of the Council;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to make the appropriate arrangements for the special session of the Commission in 1996;

8. Reiterates that the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action will require the mobilization of financial resources at the national and international levels, as set out in paragraphs 87 to 92 of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development;

9. Requests the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, to give special consideration to the implications, including financial aspects, of the

follow-up and the implementation by the United Nations system of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and to adopt decisions thereon.

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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Jean-Marie Kacou Gervais (Côte d'Ivoire), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1995/L.30

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 46/219 of 20 December 1991 and 47/199 of 22 December 1992, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the resolution,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and its own resolution 1994/33 of 28 July 1994,

Recalling that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/162, the role of the Council in its operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment includes the provision to the United Nations system of cross-sectoral coordination and overall guidance on a system-wide basis,

Recognizing that appropriate recommendations regarding the need to increase substantially resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, should be further considered in the open-ended working group of the General Assembly on a new funding system for operational

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activities for development, established pursuant to Assembly resolution 48/162, annex, section 3.B,

Having considered the note by the Secretariat on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development within the United Nations system 1/ and the report on the annual sessions of the United Nations funds and programmes,

Deeply concerned about the decrease in resources allocated to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

1. Takes note of the note by the Secretariat; 1/

2. Reaffirms that the strengthening of the efficiency and effectiveness of the operational activities of the United Nations system in the delivery of its assistance for development requires a real commitment to implementing General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 48/162, including the need to increase substantially the availability of resources on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the needs of developing countries;

3. Considers that there is a need for additional measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including, inter alia, programmes focused on meeting the specific needs of developing countries; giving priority in resource allocation to developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries and Africa; appropriate cooperation among United Nations programmes and between them and those of other donors; and keeping administrative costs to a level that allows effective programme delivery;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to finalize the report requested in paragraph 55 of General Assembly resolution 47/199 and to submit to the Assembly at its fiftieth session, in consultation with Member States, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of resolution 47/199, with appropriate recommendations, taking into account also the work and outcome of the open-ended working group of the General Assembly on a new funding system for operational activities for development and the need to implement paragraph 3 of resolution 47/199;

5. Reiterates that the United Nations funds and programmes should submit their reports to the Council in all the official languages of the United Nations in good time, to enable the Council to carry out its policy guidance functions, and should schedule their Executive Board meetings so as to ensure this;

6. Decides that in 1996 the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment should focus on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the areas of social and economic development, at all levels, including the field level;

1/ E/1995/98.

7. Also decides that the themes for the working-level meetings of the operational activities segment should include:

(a) Field-level coordination issues relating to the follow-up of the theme of the high-level segment of the previous substantive session of the Council;

(b) Issues relating to the budgets of the United Nations funds and programmes, with the aim of:

(i) Promoting greater budgetary transparency with respect to resources, including administrative costs of different funds and programmes;

(ii) Addressing the linkages between administrative expenditure and programme expenditure;

(iii) Ensuring the most efficient use of resources;

(iv) Promoting budgetary transparency with respect to resources mobilized by developing countries for operational activities for development of the United Nations, including resources from the private sector;

(c) Issues relating to:

(i) Strengthening national capacity for management and coordination of international assistance;

(ii) Improving national participation in the process of evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of assistance provided by United Nations funds and programmes;

(iii) Promoting greater collaboration among United Nations funds and programmes in the evaluation of their activities;

(d) Issues relating to procurement, in particular from developing countries;

(e) Issues relating to the use of national experts and local technologies;

(f) Issues relating to the priorities to be given in particular to the least developed countries and Africa;

8. Further decides to review these themes at its organizational session for 1996, in the light of the discussion on the triennial policy review at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Jean-Marie Kacou Gervais (Côte d'Ivoire), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1995/L.31

Overall guidance on operational activities for development to the United Nations funds and programmes

The Economic and Social Council

1. Decides, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, to provide to the United Nations funds and programmes the following policy guidance on operational activities for development, so as to ensure that the policies formulated by the General Assembly, particularly during the triennial policy review of operational activities, are appropriately implemented on a system-wide basis;

2. Requests the United Nations funds and programmes, in their response to the increasing needs of developing countries, to take into account General Assembly resolutions 45/206 of 21 December 1990 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and 46/151 of 18 December 1991 on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, and to continue to give high priority in their budget allocations to the least developed countries, low income countries and Africa;

3. Also requests the United Nations funds and programmes to take into account the specific needs and requirements of the countries with economies in transition;

4. Further requests the United Nations funds and programmes to take into account the specific needs and requirements of different regions;

5. Requests the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, in establishing their priorities, to take fully into account the relevant conclusions and recommendations of United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with their respective mandates, also bearing in mind national plans and priorities and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

6. Requests the United Nations funds and programmes to improve coherence in their country programmes, inter alia, by considering the possibility of joint or consecutive meetings of the Executive Boards, where practicable, on country programmes, and by improving the link between their country programmes and the country strategy notes, where in place, bearing in mind the need for cooperation between external donors and the United Nations funds and programmes in this field;

7. Requests the heads of the United Nations funds and programmes to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996, through their Executive Boards, on the steps taken to further refine and effectively apply procedures for:

(a) The overall impact an performance of United Nations funds and programmes and measures to ensure that higher priority is given to monitoring and evaluation activities and to the implementation of findings, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992;

(b) Strengthening national capacity for the management and coordination of international assistance;

(c) Improving national participation in the process of evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of assistance provided by the United Nations funds and programmes;

(d) Promoting greater collaboration among United Nations funds and programmes in the evaluation of their activities;

8. Requests the Executive Boards, in their reports to the Council, to identify specific problems, opportunities and areas in which the Council could provide cross-sectoral coordination and overall guidance on a system-wide basis, and to make appropriate proposals, which should be further analysed as a basis for recommendations to the Council, to ensure that the policies formulated by the General Assembly, particularly during the triennial policy review of operational activities, are appropriately implemented on a system-wide basis;

9. Invites the specialized agencies, where appropriate, to identify specific problem areas for consideration by the Council in line with paragraph 8 above;

10. Requests the United Nations funds and programmes, in the context of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, to report jointly to the Council through

the Secretary-General on questions relating to coordination, cooperation and the division of labour, and on other issues they consider appropriate;

11. Also requests the United Nations funds and programmes, and invites specialized agencies, to explore the scope for improving the cost-effectiveness of administrative services, including the possible use of common administrative services at the field level, with the aim of strengthening programme delivery, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 1996;

12. Urges the United Nations funds and programmes to improve the personnel management system for resident coordinators and other senior managers.